

The Pipeline

Vol. 1999, Number 4

Jan. 29, 1999

New Cafeteria Stunned By Boycott Threat

By Ann Hall - CHS, Purchasing
and Cary Willis - CFC, Communication

The cafeteria has reopened in the Human Resources Building, thanks to S&E Food Service. No longer must we hop in our cars and drive to some faraway place to get a square meal for breakfast or lunch.

Steven Jackson and Eric Hysett, owners of S&E, say they generally have been pleased with the response, and it's clear by the size of the crowds in the cafeteria around noon that our employees are happy, too.

But it seems you can't please all the people all the time.

Just two weeks into S&E's operation of the cafeteria – after nine months with nothing – a group of people have distributed a petition demanding lower prices, along with flyers calling S&E's prices "outrageous." One flyer pointed out that "we are state workers, not millionaires" and suggested that everyone "join together and not visit the cafeteria until they lower their prices!!!"

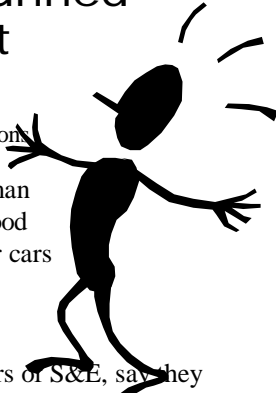
The flyer said: "Attention: Would you pay \$15.40 for a single loaf of bread? If you bought 22 pieces of toast at the S&E Cafeteria, you would be!!!"

As Johnny Carson would say, "Wrong, toaster-breath!" That figure works out to exactly twice the actual price S&E charges (70 cents) for two slices of buttered toast and two side orders of jelly.

What's more, we checked around and found that S&E actually beats the price of the two state-operated cafeterias. Diners at the other facilities pay 40 cents for two pieces of *plain* toast, plus 5 cents per pat of butter (assuming one pat per slice), and another 15 cents per container of jelly – which brings the same order to 80 cents.

Price comparisons aside, it's unfortunate that two entrepreneurs trying to meet a long-unmet need encountered such negativity so quickly.

Eric Hysett, the "E" of S&E, admitted he was a little hurt by the criticism. "I thought, geez, they really wanted us in here,



and now that we're here they're already trying to run us out,"

he told The Pipeline. "I wish if somebody had a complaint they would just tell me to my face, instead of leaving a petition on the salad bar."

Hysett said he and Jackson are working with their suppliers for pricing that would allow them to expand the number of special-deal prices offered (they now offer a \$3.25 daily lunch special for one meat and two sides). He said this might take some time, however.

Unlike other state cafeterias, our cafeteria is not operated by state employees. S&E is a private company, on contract with the state, and must pay employee salaries as part of its operating expense. Hysett said he is doing all he can to keep prices reasonable and quality high.

Hysett said he was relieved to find that a second group in the complex has collected signatures expressing support for his new eatery. He said he is always open to suggestions, and he looks forward to a long tenure in the Human Resources Building.

Office of Aging Services Is On The Move



The Office of Aging Services has found a new home in the Cabinet for Health Services. Until Jan. 16 it had been part of the Cabinet for Families and Children.

Both Viola Miller, secretary of the Cabinet for Families and Children, and John Morse, secretary of the Cabinet for Health Services, supported the move as did citizen advocates for the elderly.

John Morse explained the reasons for the transfer. "The Cabinet for Health Services spends over half a billion dollars a year on services to the elderly," he said, "and the Office of Aging Services needs to be part of the team that makes program policy. The staff and their advisors have the knowledge and consumer orientation to help us meet the needs of the elderly most effectively."

Jerry Whitley, executive director of the Office of Aging Services, said that the office, and its current staff, will be attached to the Secretary's Office. The physical location will remain on Fifth Floor West.

CFC Names January Employees of the Month

By Margaret Davis Harney - CFC, Communications

Albert Woodrum of Disability Determinations and Daniel Ramey of Family Support are the first to be recognized in 1999 as the Cabinet for Families and Children's Employees of the Month. The two men were named January Employees of the Month at a Jan. 26 ceremony.

Woodrum, a disability determiner chief, was nominated to represent First City Complex "not only for his work ethic and abilities, but also for being a good friend," Dawn Caldwell wrote in her nomination of Woodrum. "He never forgets that each disability claim represents a person's life, and is careful to assure a fair and equitable decision; he also never hesitates to lend a hand to his fellow workers." When a co-worker's emergency surgery required an extended absence, Woodrum was the first to volunteer to work overtime so a backlog of claims wouldn't result – even though the absence occurred from the Thanksgiving holiday period through Christmas and the New Year. When an employee was diagnosed with terminal cancer, and a cookout was planned to raise funds to help with her expenses, Woodrum was the first to volunteer to cook – even though it meant cooking for more than 300 people.

Woodrum and his wife Melissa have two daughters and live in Frankfort. He has worked in Disability Determinations for more than six years.



Secretary Viola Miller with Albert Woodrum

Daniel Ramey, personnel administrator for CFC's Division of Family Support, has provided professional guidance and counseling to state government staff for almost 30 years, through a number of staffing and organizational changes.

"He has gone beyond the call of duty to answer questions and assist with the overall operation of this agency," Eric Barnes wrote in his nomination of Ramey. "He not only has worked hard as an advocate for changes in reclassifications and other personnel actions, but has devoted his personal time and effort to seeing that special projects are completed."

Ramey was also praised for his "quiet spirit and humble personality," qualities that have won him the confidence and friendship of not only central office staff, but of field staff throughout the state.

Ramey, father of two, is a native of Mt. Olivet, but now resides in Frankfort.

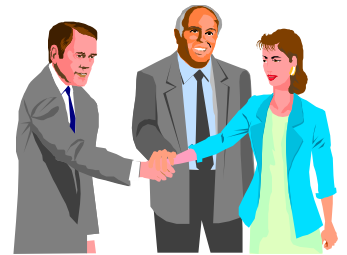


Secretary Miller with Daniel Ramey

CFC selects two outstanding employees each month for special recognition – one from staff working in the Human Resources Building and one from staff at First City. Their peers, either co-workers or workers from another office or branch of CFC, nominate employees for the honor. A rotating panel selects the monthly winners from among nominations received by the 15th of the month.

For more information, or to submit a nomination, contact Charlene Nation of the Employee Services Branch, CHR-5, phone 564-7770. She will also accept nominations sent by e-mail. ❖

New Positions for McManis and Harney

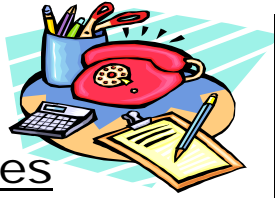


Libby McManis, who served for five years as director of administration and financial management in the Department for Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services, has been appointed a deputy commissioner in the Personnel Cabinet.

McManis, who lives in Frankfort, began working in the Personnel Cabinet's Department for Employee Relations on Jan. 16. She has also worked for the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Department for Local Government and was an assistant professor of sociology at Kentucky State University.

Linda Harney has been named the new director of the Division of Administration and Financial Management at MHMR. Linda is a 13-year state government veteran who previously worked in the Inspector General's Division of Audits. Linda joined MHMR in October of 1997.

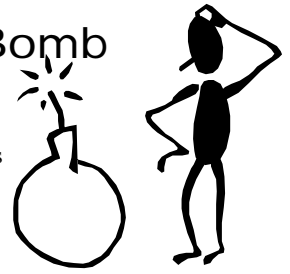
Central Office Notes and Activities



- ◆ Library and Archives' Web site now has special links for research related to **Black History Month**: <http://www.kdla.state.ky.us/arch/blackhis.htm>
- ◆ Do you need an **updated phone listing** of fellow employees? For a listing of all state employees, check the Web at www.state.ky.us/directory/dirindex.htm. Bookmark this – you will use it often. Although the information is taken from the state directory, it is updated frequently by the Finance Cabinet's Department for Information Systems, and even provides a link to a form where you can submit correct information if you find an inaccuracy.
- ◆ A **directory of CFC's central office staff** is also available: http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/CFC/resource_directory/resource_directory.html. This was compiled by Cookie Whitehouse in Program Support, and she makes frequent updates. Call her at 564-3106, ext. 116, with corrections.
- ◆ Watch for the Division of Child Support's **responsible fatherhood commercial** during the Super Bowl Jan. 31. The commercial, featuring Cincinnati Bengal Darrick Brilz, tells fathers not to drop the ball and encourages them to "take time out for their kids."
- ◆ CFC's Special Needs Adoption Program, SNAP, is sponsoring an **Adoption Fair** Feb. 7, 1 – 4 p.m., at the University of Louisville's Shelby Campus. Representatives from private as well as state agencies will be there to provide information. All prospective foster and adoptive parents are invited. Call Judi Spooner at 502-637-9786 for more information.
- ◆ The American **Red Cross** will take blood donations in the lobby of the Health Services Building Feb. 9th and 10th, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Division or office recruiters will contact employees to schedule appointments. Blood supplies are critically low, so please give serious consideration to donating. If you have any questions, please call Debbie Armstrong at 564-7770 or Jane Wilson at 564-2157.
- ◆ The first **Wakeup Wednesday** of 1999 is set for 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Feb. 10 in the cafeteria. Ann Aukerman will present *WITH FLYING COLORS: BUILDING ON YOUR STRENGTHS*. Wakeup Wednesdays are now being presented on the second Wednesday of each month.
- ◆ The **aerobics program** meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 5 p.m. in the cafeteria. Call Beth Bates at 564-7736 for more information.

How to Handle a Bomb Threat

By Cary Willis - CFC, Communications



Over the past few weeks, the Human Resources Building has been the target of three bomb threats. We can all be thankful that the threats have been false alarms and that no bomb has been found. Nevertheless, the threats have caused alarm, evacuations, inconvenience and a careful reexamination of the procedures we must undertake when a threat is received.

Making a bomb threat is not a joke or a minor offense. Known in legal circles as "terroristic threatening," it is a crime against each one of us attempting to do our jobs in a safe environment. Terroristic threatening is defined in Kentucky as a Class A misdemeanor carrying a penalty of up to 12 months in jail and a fine.

Kentucky State Police have mounted an aggressive investigation into the threats, but they could use your help. If you have any information whatsoever that may be helpful to this investigation, you are asked to call the state police post in Frankfort at (502) 227-2221. Callers do not have to reveal their identity.

You may have received an e-mail message describing the procedures you should follow in the event you answer a phone call containing a bomb threat. If you did not receive this message, and would like a copy of the one-page document, call the Office of Communications at (502) 564-6786. Among the highlights of the document are the following steps you should take:

1. Attempt to keep caller on the line;
2. Advise co-workers of the situation immediately;
3. Contact the Building Superintendent's Office at 564-2640; this office will call police and order an evacuation;
4. Calmly ask the caller for details about the alleged bomb; these details will be helpful to investigators.



NOTICE: All non-emergency announcements will be made on Tuesday morning. Please call in your announcements by Monday afternoon!

Pipeline, a weekly newsletter for employees of the Cabinets for Families and Children and Health Services, welcomes reader comments and contributions. Items for *Pipeline* are due by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday; items for intercom announcements are due by 4:30 p.m. Monday. Call (502) 564-6786 or send information to Patricia Loman at ploman@mail.state.ky.us.